

completion by 31.03.2007. The work is being monitored closely for timely completion.

(c) and (d) On Tiruchchirappalli-Manamadurai gauge conversion project, work on Tiruchchirappalli-Pudukottai section has been completed and Pudukottai-Karaikudi section is targeted for completion during 2006-07. Work on the balance project i.e. Karaikudi-Manamadurai section is likely to be completed during 2007-08.

Modernisation and expansion of Chennai Central and Egmore stations

1927. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has announced that Central station and Egmore station in Chennai would be modernized and expanded followed by a few major railway stations in Tamil Nadu during his recent visit to Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof and follow up action taken in terms of investigation, preparation of project and stage of financial allocation thereof; and

(c) whether it is possible to give a probable time frame for completion of this work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) With a view to provide upgraded passenger amenities, Chennai Central and Chennai Egmore stations have been taken up for development as model stations. The following works have been sanctioned and are in progress at these stations:-

- (i) Chennai Central—Works totaling Rs. 4.07 crore which are already in progress and targeted for completion by December, 2007.
- (ii) Chennai Egmore— Works costing Rs. 6 crore which are targeted for completion by October, 2007 for which plans and estimates are under preparation.

Chennai Central station is also proposed to be developed into a world class station for which it is proposed to engage qualified consultants. However, no target is laid down for this purpose.

Apart from the above, the following major stations in Tamil Nadu have also been taken up for modernization which is targeted for completion by March, 2007:

Kumbakonam, Vridhachalam and Tambaram.

In addition, the following stations have also been identified for development as Model station in the State of Tamil Nadu:

Arakkonam Jn. Chengalpattu, Chennai Beach, Coimbatore, Erode Jn., Kanniyakumari, Katpadi, Madurai, Mambalam, Rameshwaram, Salem Jn., Tiruchchirappalli, Tirunelveli, Tiruttani, Tuticorin, Jolarpettai, Dindigul, Tiruppur, Thanjavur, Nagercoil, Ambur, Kovilpatti, Virudhunagar, Villupuram Jn. and Hosur.

Gauge conversion and doubling work in Rajasthan

†1928. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of metre gauge conversion of Ajmer-Phulera-Jaipur and the doubling work of Jaipur-Dausa and Dausa-Bandikui-Alwar-Rewari section of North West Railway would be undertaken in the plan of year 2007-08; and

(b) whether Bandikui-Agra section of the North West Railway would be considered for doubling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The Annual Plan for 2007-08 is to be finalized and approved. However, conversion of metre gauge line from Ajmer to Jaipur, doubling of Jaipur-Dausa and Dausa-Bandikui sections have already been taken up.

(b) Doubling of a section is undertaken when the section is considered saturated from the traffic point of view. At present, there is no proposal to undertake doubling of Bandikui-Agra section.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.